

## Recreation Capital Items Include New Tennis Court and Playgrounds

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

Recreation Director Gordon Cushing's capital expense wish list is 10 items long and has a price tag of \$270,000.

Cushing oversees the North Hill golf course, the Percy Walker pool, and all recreation facilities in town.

The most expensive capital expense is a \$150,000 dehumidification system at the Percy Walker pool. The 25-year old pool currently has "no effective system to deal with humidity" and also has no air conditioning, according Cushing. The dehumidification system should correct air quality problems at the pool about which patrons have long complained.

It will cost \$25,000 to dump the pool water and acid wash the tile walls and re-grout them. This project is done once every four years as part of the regularly scheduled maintenance at the pool. The water must be replaced to remove "total dissolved solids" that accumulate during four years of chemical treatments, according to Cushing.

Cushing also needs \$6,000 to continue the cycle of replacing light fixtures at the pool, many of which have deteriorated because of the chlorine in the air. This request will be the third year in a four year cycle.

For the town-owned North Hill golf course, Cushing would like to see five projects funded at a total cost of \$44,000. Repairing sand traps, installing cart paths and replacing windows in the residential house on the property will each cost \$10,000. The sand trap and cart path projects are both being completed over five years and both are in the fourth year.

Cushing would like to replace all 22 of the windows in the 1920s town-owned farmhouse that is used by the golf course managers as part of their contract. The window sashes are rotten and large gaps must

be covered with plastic each winter, resulting in heat loss, according to Cushing. Also, the house needs a new kitchen, which will cost \$9,000. This amount will pay for demolition of the old kitchen and installation of new appliances, cabinets and a new floor. According to Cushing, people in the house literally fell through the rotten kitchen floor recently. The managers have offered to help with the cost of some appliances.

The last item on the North Hill capital list is to install ladies tee boxes on every hole. The first year of this four year improvement program will cost \$5,000. Currently, only two of the nine holes have ladies tees and Cushing now feels "it is time to address the needs of our female golfers."

For the recreation department capital expenses, there is a \$25,000 request to renovate one of the Alden tennis courts and a \$20,000 request to install new playgrounds around town. Of the three courts behind the library on Alden St., two are in good condition, but one is in disrepair. The funds would pay for complete demolition and reconstruction of a new court on the same site. This court cannot be repaired, according to Cushing, because when it was built over a decade ago, it was constructed improperly with drainage problems that have eroded it.

As for the \$20,000 request for playground funds, the town and the Newcomers Club have been working together to replace playgrounds around Duxbury. New ones have been installed at Keene St. and at Wadsworth Rd. Cushing said the Newcomers hope to raise between \$75,000 to \$100,000 for new playground equipment. The playground near the library and Lower Alden school may be replaced with these combined funds.

Other capital budgets recently presented to the selectmen include those for Information Services and the fire department. The Information Services capital budget request for fiscal year 2002 is \$199,964. Included in that figure is \$33,000 for replacement computers for town departments and \$7,500 for five new computers for staff at the senior center.

An \$89,000 police and fire mobile data terminal is also being requested this year. This is 5 vehicle units and one portable unit that will allow officers in their cruisers to access information about people and their vehicles that normally would only be available at the police station.

The fire department would like to replace a 1978 fire engine at a cost of \$280,000. There is also a \$20,000 request for additional self-contained breathing apparatus (SCUBA) and a \$9,000 request for a new water tank for a fire truck.